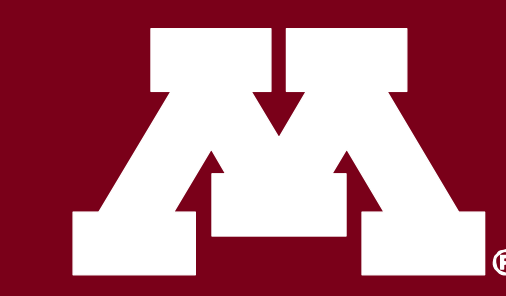




Extension Programs Raise Awareness and Increase Knowledge about Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children and Families

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1 in 28 children have a parent who is incarcerated, a rate higher than either juvenile diabetes or autism (Maruschak et al., 2010)
Parental incarceration has received relatively little attention from researchers, policymakers or professionals (Eddy & Poehlmann, 2010)

Extension CYFC engaged in 3 programmatic efforts to increase knowledge of research and practice implications of Parental Incarceration on children and families

Over 560 people, predominantly professionals in social services, education, and mental health fields participated

Quantitative and qualitative analyses indicated that these 3 efforts contributed to significant learning, increased awareness, and a change in perceptions of incarcerated parents

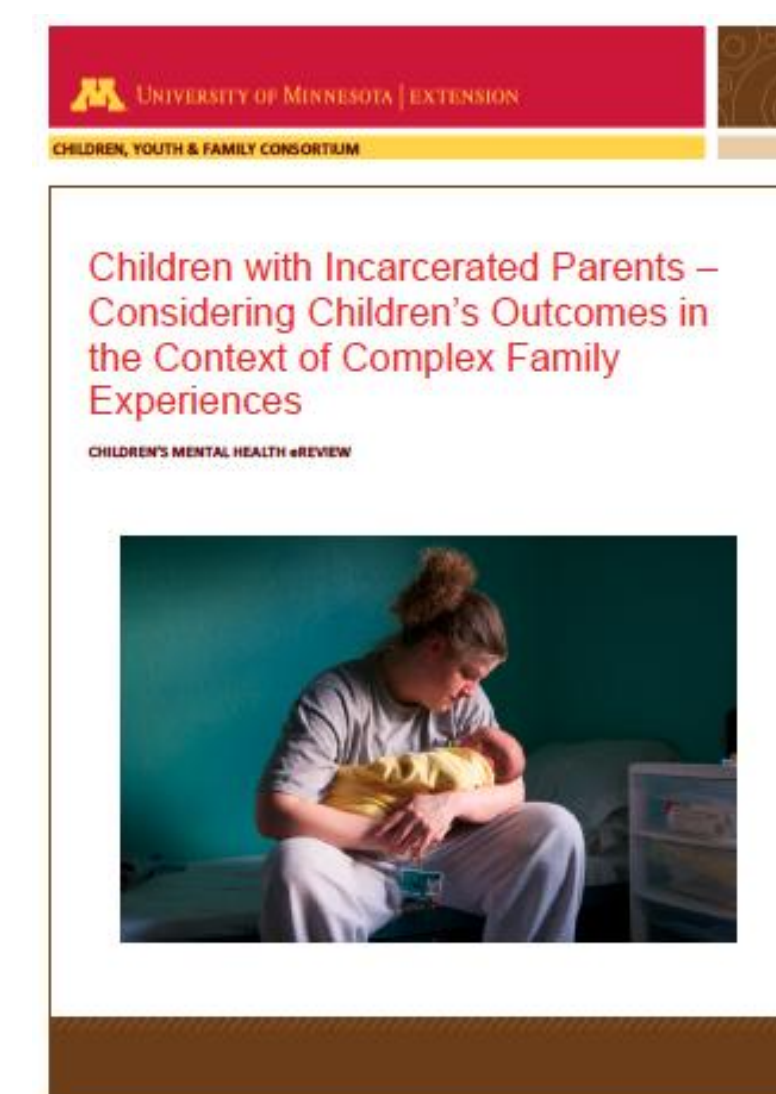
Children's Mental Health eReview

What is the eReview?

Online publication: Educational online publication that brings together research and practice perspectives.

Children with Incarcerated Parents Issue: Available since September 2013.

"[The eReview] contained information I would not normally have access to read."



What themes emerged?

Increase in research knowledge: Parental incarceration is a topic relevant to readers' professions, and readers' knowledge of research increased as a result of reading the eReview.

Practice and policy perspectives: Readers valued the diverse practice and policy perspectives from community authors

Focus on prevention: Readers valued eReview's focus on bridging research and practice for prevention.



"The content/topic is central to my work and the careers of my students as they move into the work force. It is fantastic to have access to this theory/research-to-practice publication for current and future practitioners who are working with incarcerated moms."

Lessons From the Field (LFTF)

"I only had one perspective – outside the fence. This helped me see what it's like from the other side of the wall."

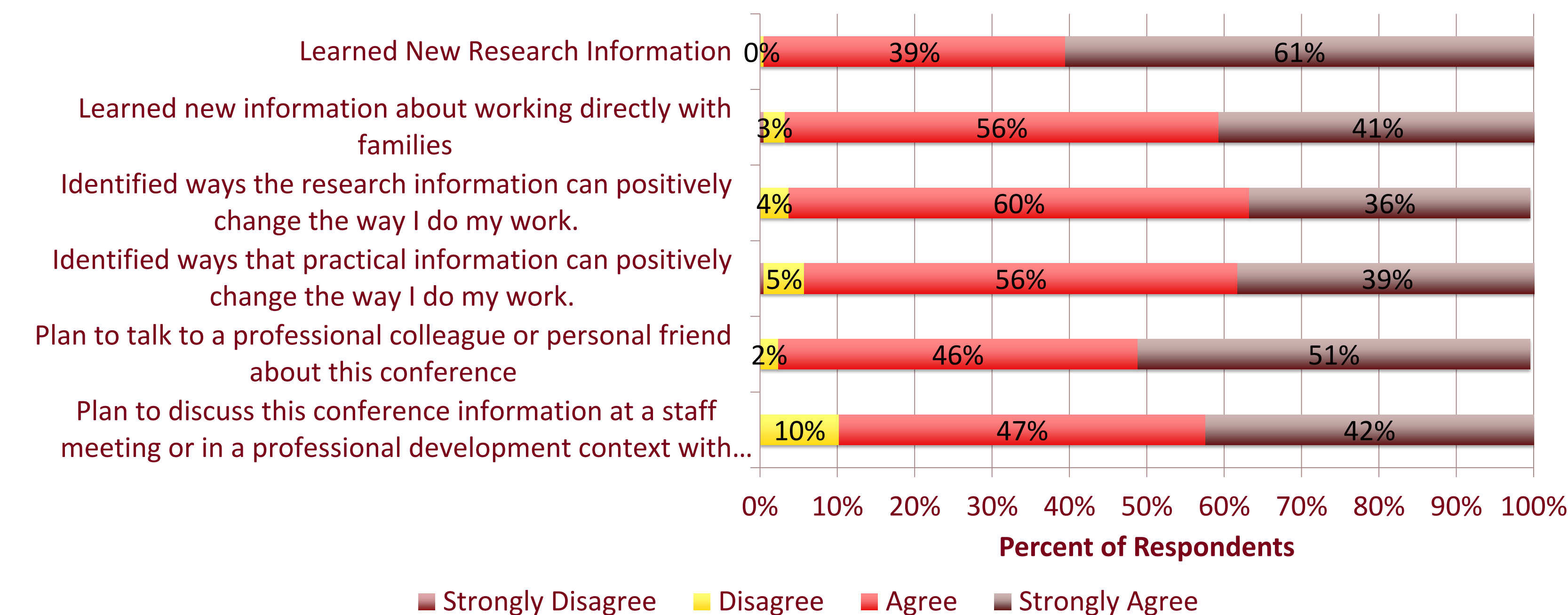
Faribault correctional officer

What is Lessons from the Field?

Presentation based seminar: Educational seminar series that engages and informs practitioners and researchers whose work promotes mental health in children and families.

Unbarred: Strengthening Families affected by Incarceration: Held November 14th, 2013, featured speakers, a documentary film, breakout sessions.

What was learned?



"I realized that mothers can still be part of their children's lives while incarcerated and that they care about their children more than I thought they did. I always thought that parents in jail must not care or they wouldn't end up there."

What themes emerged?

Expansion of knowledge: increased knowledge of content.

Recognition of research: recognition of the importance of research.

Personal connections and empathy: positive shifts in attitudes toward incarcerated parents.

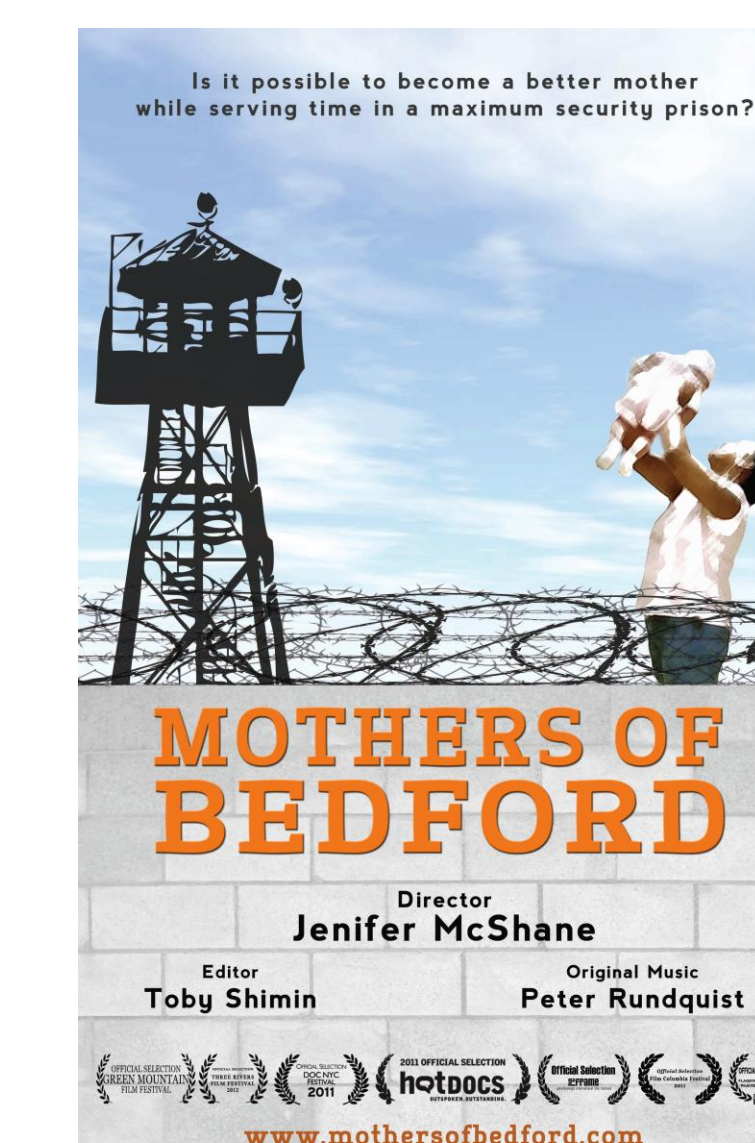
Relevance to work: Highly applicable to future work.

Research to Practice: Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH)

What is the Research to Practice Series?

Presentation based seminar: Partnership between Extension CYFC and Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health to provide an in-depth training on basic and applied research, best practices and translation.

MACMH Conference Held April 29th, featured speakers, a documentary film, breakout sessions.



"These sessions helped me understand more thoroughly the impact on children and families when a parent is incarcerated. The knowledge gained from today will assist [me in my work]"

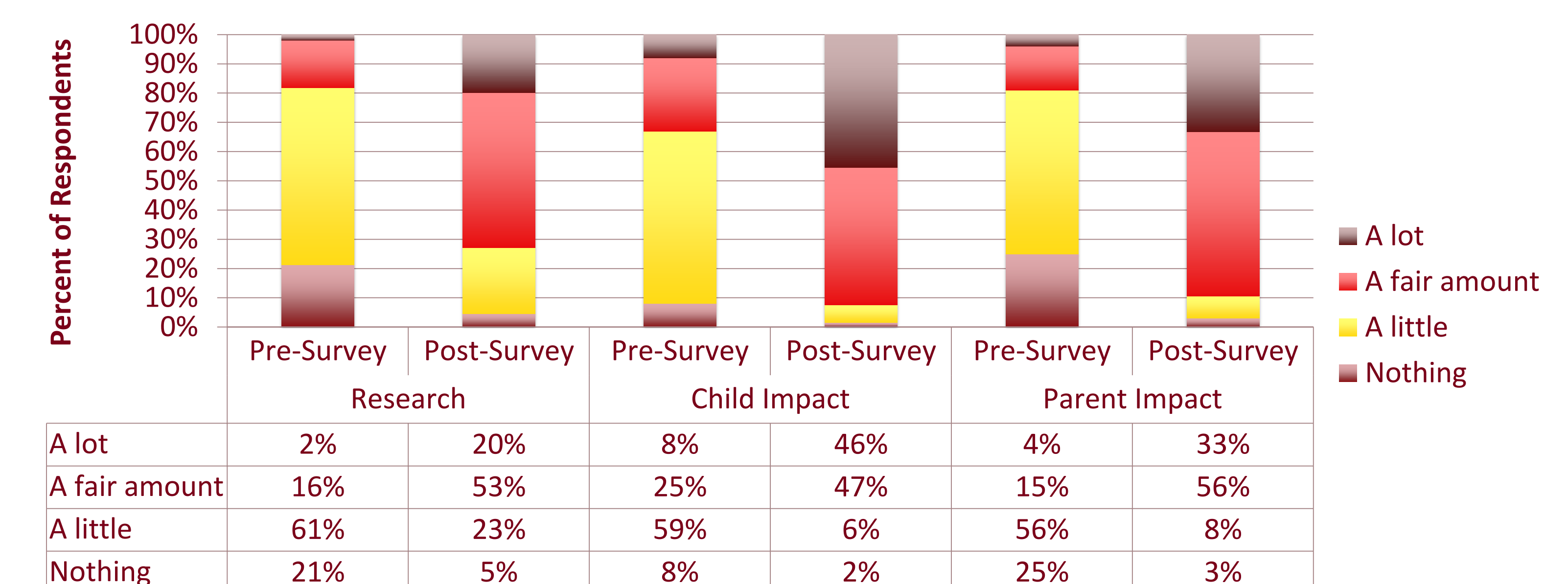
What themes emerged?

Change in awareness : Increased awareness of effects of parental incarceration on children

Facilitate practice changes and passion: Increased awareness and knowledge of this issue encouraged them to think about how to change their own practice as well as how to get more involved in the issue.

Need for systems change: Enhanced awareness of systems changes needed to address issue

What was learned?



CONCLUSIONS

- 85% of survey respondents indicated they learned about parental incarceration research;
- Perceptions of incarcerated parents were positively altered as a result of viewing *Mothers of Bedford*, a documentary shown at MACMH and LFTF;
- A majority of professionals indicated they planned to discuss what they learned with colleagues, and stated they planned to change their work as a result of participating;
- Qualitative themes across efforts included increased knowledge and feelings of empathy, and recognition of relevance of topic to professionals' work.